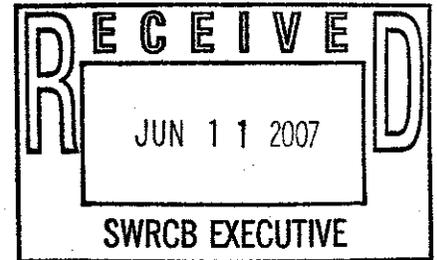


6/12/07 Workshop
Suction Dredge Mining
Deadline: 6/22/07 Noon

From: "Nickels" <nickels@sti.net>
To: <commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov>
Date: Mon, Jun 11, 2007 3:35 PM
Subject: Comment Letter - Suction Dredge Mining



Hello,

I rarely write on this political stuff, but since I am interested in suction dredging, and I have been doing this type of gold mining off and on for 25 years, I wanted to comment. Recreational mining of this type does not effect the water quality, or fish. I feel it improves the river. We remove lead and mercury from the river or creek, we make good habitat for fish, holes where fish like to hide. The water gets stirred up by the dredging, but it settles down in a few minutes. What I - and people I know that dredge - do certainly does not effect the water as much as a rain, when the creek is washing rocks, silt, and sand down. We don't dredge all day, we shut off the motor for extended lengths of time during the day. The river/creek water quality is not nearly as impacted as you may be led to believe. I have found recreational prospectors to be conscientious and diligent in their efforts to be careful with the land, and to respect the laws. Please let us continue to enjoy and use our lands.

Sincerely,

Randall Nickels Oakhurst CA.